

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 00497 130345Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----003002 130347Z /61

R 111435Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1911
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST

S E C R E T LONDON 00497

STADIS/////////
EXDIS

FOR ASST SECREARY VEST FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UK, EI
SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND: POSSIBLE USG INVOLVEMENT

REF: (A) LONDON 480; (B) LONDON 388

1. I AM CONCERNED BY THE REPORT FROM OUR CONSUL GENERAL IN BELFAST THAT THE NI SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOR PARTY (SDLP) BELIEVES THE USG HAS SOME "RESPONSIBILITY" TO INTERVENE IN THE NI PROBLEM (REF A) AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS VIEW MIGHT, TO SOME EXTENT, BE SHARED BY THE GOI (REF B). OVER THE PAST MONTHS I HAVE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO WAYS IN WHICH WE MIGHT PLAY A USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN NI, AND HAVE CONCLUDED THAT: WE CAN MAKE NO CONTRIBUTION WITHOUT THE WHOLEHEARTED UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF BOTH THE BRITISH AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS; AND, FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, NO THIRD PARTY CAN PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE, ACTIVIST PART. I DO NOT FORECLOSE, OF COURSE, THE POSSIBILITY THAT CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES

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COULD CREATE A NEW SITUATION IN WHICH A THIRD PARTY MIGHT MAKE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION. BUT FOR NOW, I BELIEVE ANY INITIATIVES IN THIS DIRECTION, WHETHER BY THE USG OR OTHERS, WOULD BE RESISTED AND RESENTED BY HMG AND COULD BE SELF DEFEATING IN NI.

2. IN THE CONTEXT OF BELFAST'S REPORT AND THE RECENT

STATEMENTS OF IRISH PRIME MINISTER LYNCH, WHICH HAVE
STRAINED HMG-GOI RELATIONS, I BELIEVE IT IS ESPECIALLY
IMPORTANT FOR US ACTIVELY TO DISCOURAGE ANY EXPECTATION,
WHETHER ON THE PART OF THE SDLP OR THE GOI, THAT WE ARE
PREPARED TO CONSIDER DEEPER INVOLVEMENT IN NI.
BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON00497
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780019-0679
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780174/aaaackdo.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 703d8be4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: 78 LONDON 480, 78 LONDON 388
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3790653
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTHERN IRELAND: POSSIBLE USG INVOLVEMENT
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UK, EI, US
To: STATE DUBLIN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/703d8be4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014